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**BIRDS OF MADISON COUNTY, NEW YORK.** By George Charles Embdy, B. S. (Presented as a thesis for the degree of Master of Science, Colgate University, 1901.)

This is a careful and intelligent list of 192 species and subspecies, a number of which are quite rare. Black-capped Petrel, American Scoter, Black Brant, Knot, Hudsonian Godwit, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Nelson's and Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Plumbeous Vireo, Orange-crowned and Hooded Warblers; and is followed by a hypothetical list of 16 more species of which no satisfactory records have been made, but by reason of their occurrence in neighboring counties, future observations may reveal them. Based chiefly upon five or six years' active field work by the author, supplemented by all other data obtainable, an extremely creditable paper has resulted; one that will require little correction in the future. The description of the physical conditions, vegetation, etc., of the district, furnish the facts from which we can more than surmise the reason of the scarcity or abundance of certain species. The author is to be congratulated upon the appearance of his paper, and also upon his able assistants, whose aid and suggestions he so generously acknowledges.—  
F. L. B.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION,** at its Second Annual Meeting, Omaha, Neb., January 12, 1901.

Although young as an organization, the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union exhibits every mark of being among the foremost of State Associations in active field work. The proceedings are preserved in a substantial volume of one hundred pages and ten plates. In addition to the matter belonging strictly to the organization—abstract of minutes, constitution and by-laws, list of members, and President Trostler's address—one of the most important papers is by Prof. Lawrence Bruner, on "Birds in Their Relation to Agriculture." Superintendent Wilson Tout offers some sensible suggestions in relation to "Ornithology in Schools." "A Late Nest of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird," by Frank I. Shoemaker, and "Young Rose-breasted Grosbeaks," by Elizabeth Van Sant, are interesting accounts of young in nest. The oologist will be pleased with "Notes on the Breeding of the Prothonotary Warbler, and Observations on Traill's Flycatcher," by M. A. Carricker, Jr.; "Breeding Habits of Bell's Vireo," by Merrit Cary, and "Birds that Nest in Nebraska," by Prof. Lawrence Bruner. Edwin H. Barbour touches upon "A Peculiar Disease of Birds' Feet Observed in Central Nebraska," and Henry B. Ward on "The Internal Parasites of Nebraska Birds." On "Migration Records and Our Nebraska Records," R. H. Wolcott unfolds a scheme for the "accurate numerical valuation of terms relating to the abundance of species and for an accurate and uniform method of

recording migration observations." A number of shorter papers are equally valuable.—F. L. B.

CATALOGUE OF A COLLECTION OF HUMMINGBIRDS FROM ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA. By Harry C. Oberholser. From the proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. XXIV., pages 309-342.

The collection of hummingbirds here described was "gathered by Messrs. Claude Hamilton and Walter Goodfellow during their trip to Ecuador and Colombia, in 1898 and 1899." With the possible exception of that brought together by Baron, it is probably the finest single collection ever made, comprising, as it does, 1136 specimens, almost all in fine condition of plumage, and accompanied by proper data. Although some of them are from Colombia, by far the greater number were collected in Ecuador. One hundred and nine species and sub-species are represented." Three new forms are described. Notes touching the life history of some of the species, by the collectors, add interest and value to the paper.—L. J.

#### BIRD-LORE'S FIELD IDENTIFICATION BLANK.

Just as we go to press this useful little pocket blank appears. It is intended for those who are beginning the study of birds—live birds—but will prove useful to those who are trying to extend their acquaintance beyond the ordinary. Cuts of the heads of five species appear on the front cover, all natural size, while the back cover contains the contour topography of a Bluebird, with every part named. A six-inch scale on the outside of this cover completes the equipment for field study, so far as a notebook can. The first page of instructions for field work is followed by fifteen pages, upon which descriptions are to be written. Each of these pages contains a place for locality, date, haunt, length, size and shape of bill; length and shape of tail, color (twelve parts of the body), voice, movements, etc., with the reverse side for remarks. This little blank should prove useful to those who are anxious to know how to begin the study of birds. It may be obtained from the J. Horace McFarland Co., Crescent and Mulberry Sts., Harrisburg, Pa., for ten cents a copy.—L. J.

SUMMER BIRDS OF FLATHEAD LAKE. By P. M. Sillaway, Principal Fergus County High School, author of "Some Common Birds." Prepared at the University of Montana Biological Station, under the direction of Morton J. Elrod.

This 83 page bulletin is accompanied with 16 half tones representing the region studied, and a number of nests and eggs of the region. The 128 species recorded are about equally divided between the strictly western species and those which range pretty much over the entire country. But that part of Montana lies